



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,621	08/11/2003	Akihiro Kojou	04329.3111	2103
22852	7590	01/29/2007	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			DU. THUAN N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2116	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/29/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/637,621	KOJOU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thuan N. Du	2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file: Amendment (dated 11/14/06).
2. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,413).
5. Regarding claim 1, Wang teaches an electronic device (12) comprising:
 - a switch (main power switch) which, when turned on, inhibits activation of the electronic device (the system is still at power off state if the password does not match, even when the main power switch is turned on) [col. 8, lines 16-20, 29-36];
 - means holding information representing whether activation of the electronic device is inhibited by the inhibiting means (password memory 43 which stores a pre-stored password) [col. 5, lines 14-16; col. 6, line 23; col. 7, lines 46-60]; and
 - means for executing activation or activation inhibition the electronic device (firmware) on the basis of the information stored in the holding means when an activation instruction is generated in the electronic device [col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 20].

6. Regarding claim 2, Wang teaches that the switch is arranged in a housing of the electronic device [col. 8, lines 29-30].
7. Regarding claim 3, Wang teaches that the system includes a sub-processor (controller 40) different from a main processor (system CPU) [col. 5, lines 37-38] arranged in the electronic device.
8. Regarding claim 4, Wang teaches that the system includes a sub-processor (controller 40) different from a main processor (system CPU) [col. 5, lines 37-38] arranged in the electronic device, and the holding means (43) is arranged in the sub-processor [Fig. 3].
9. Regarding claim 5, Wang teaches that the switch designates inhibition even when the electronic device is OFF [col. 8, lines 29-36].
10. Regarding claim 6, Wang teaches that the system further comprises a power supply controller (PSCL 46) that manages a power supply of the electronic device [col. 8, lines 9-20], and a power supply request is issued to the power supply controller when the activation instruction is received and activation of the electronic device is permitted [col. 8, lines 5-7].
11. Regarding claims 7-16, they do not teach or further define over the limitations recited in claims 1-6 above. Therefore, claims 7-16 are also anticipated by Wang for the same reasons set forth in claims 1-6.

Response to Arguments

12. In response to applicant's argument that the pre-stored password in Wang does not teach or suggest "a switch which, when turned on, inhibits activation of the electronic device,"

examiner respectfully disagrees. Wang discloses that when PS-ON = 1, system in OFF state; and when PS-ON = 0, system in ON state [col. 8, lines 16-20]. At col. 8, lines 29-36, Wang discloses a NAND gate used to output the PS-ON signal. The inputs of the NAND gate are the PM (password match) signal and the MSW (main power switch) signal. The PS-ON=0 (to turn on the system) only when both PM=1 (password matched) and MSW=1 (main power switch ON). As such, when MSW=1 (main power switch ON) and PM=0 (password does not match), the output PS-ON=1 (system remains OFF). Therefore, Wang teaches “a switch which, when turned on, inhibits activation of the electronic device” as claimed.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan N. Du whose telephone number is (571) 272-3673. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached at (571) 272-3676.

Central TC telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

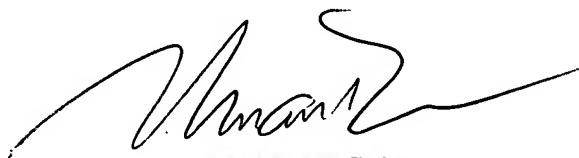
The fax number for the organization is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2116

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

TD
January 20, 2007



THUANN N. DU
PRIMARY EXAMINER